

Writing for Park Science



What is *Park Science*?

Park Science is a science and resource management bulletin of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. It reports recent and ongoing natural and social science research, its implications for park management, and its application in resource management. Articles describe experiments related to resource conservation issues and the application of science in resource management practices. Technical in nature, *Park Science* is edited for the lay reader. It is published two or more times per year, usually in spring and summer. *Park Science* is also published on the World Wide Web at www.nature.nps.gov/parksci.

What Kinds of Articles are Featured?

Park Science articles are popularized, field-oriented accounts of general interest research and resource management topics. See Table 1 for a complete list of article types, target lengths, and illustration requirements.

Audience

The principal audience for *Park Science* comprises superintendents, resource managers, natural and social science researchers, interpreters, maintenance staff, visitor and resource protection rangers, and other technical and nontechnical personnel of national park system units. The secondary audience includes other federal agencies; state departments of fish and game, parks and recreation, and natural resources; international parks; private conservation organizations; the academic community; and interested public.

General Guidelines

Articles should emphasize the utility of natural or social science research in park planning and management. Moreover, they should describe a scientific process, technique, or development that is of substantial novelty to the field. Research findings should be described in such a way that generalists can grasp their significance and understand their application. Articles should be written primarily in the active voice and in the first person, using nontechnical language; sexist language, provincialism, jargon, and acronyms should be avoided. Measurements

should be reported in English units followed by metric in parentheses. Citations should be given in the text using the author-date method followed at the end of the article by a brief reference list giving complete information for the author-date citation. *Park Science* style (including citations) is based on *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th edition.

Content

Articles should clearly show the application of science in resource management in a park. Authors may wish to consider: (1) describing the resource management problem(s) that prompted the need for a scientific solution; (2) discussing the complexity and management considerations related to the issue(s), such as relevant legislation (enabling, NEPA, ARPA, Endangered Species Act, etc.), pertinent park planning documents, planning procedures, and political realities; (3) briefly explaining the investigation methodology; (4) sharing the research findings and their implications for park management; (5) describing how findings were applied in the field; (6) detailing costs for materials and staffing related to the research and any resulting resource management field projects; (7) explaining the role of NPS funding, grants, or other sources of non-NPS funds and partners in carrying out the research or resource management project; (8) briefly appraising the applicability of the findings to other park areas; and (9) acknowledging the study sponsors and participants.

Length

Consult Table 1 at the end of the guidelines for length of manuscripts.

Author Information

Include complete contact information for each author: name, position, park area or other affiliation, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Deadlines

Articles and illustrations are due as follows, unless other arrangements have been made with the editor.

Spring Issue

Deadline: January 1

Summer Issue

Deadline: April 1

Earlier submission of materials is desirable. All copy contemplated for the upcoming issue will be reviewed by the *Park Science* editorial board during the weeks following the author's deadline. Some backlog of articles is common; approved articles not published in the upcoming issue will be considered for inclusion in the subsequent issue.

Form of Submission

Submissions should be sent to the editor in the form of a digital file attached to an e-mail message. Use the body of the e-mail as a cover letter and note the version of the word processing software used to create the attachment. A second, less preferable alternative is to mail, fax, or ship (e.g., Fed Ex) a double-spaced, laser-printed manuscript (11-point type or larger) to the editor along with the digital file of the article on a 3½" floppy disk, Zip disk, or CD-ROM. Again, note the version of the software used to produce the file.

Review and Acceptance

All articles about a park unit should be reviewed and approved by the area manager (superintendent) of the unit and the appropriate associate regional director (natural resources) before submission. Articles primarily concerning technical support programs of the Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC) are reviewed and approved by the appropriate NRPC division chief before submission. After submission, the *Park Science* editorial board reviews submissions for final approval. Acceptance for publication is based on peer review and editorial criteria that include appeal, contribution, completeness, clarity, scientific soundness, technical accuracy, policy considerations, and merit. Accepted manuscripts are edited for grammar, clarity, etc. Authors are contacted if substantive revisions to content are necessary.

Illustrations

Submit several illustrations that reinforce the article by showing personnel at work, project equipment, techniques used, locator maps, species portraits, data, etc. Photographs, line art, maps, charts, and technical drawings are all acceptable formats. See the table for further guidance.

Captions

Include a caption for each illustration that describes the relationship of the image to the theme of the article. Consult recent editions of the publication for guidance in preparing captions. Please provide any necessary credits for illustrations and secure and forward copyright permissions as needed (contact the editor for assistance).

Format for Illustrations

For photographs, original color slides (any format) are best, but color prints (with negatives, if possible) and black-and-white prints (also with negatives) are also acceptable. Photographs from digital cameras are usually not acceptable for the print edition of this publication; contact the editor to discuss this option. Drawings, such as original line art, should be forwarded in their original (or photographic reproduction) format. Computer-generated illustrations, such as charts and graphs, should be transmitted in their native file format (e.g., Microsoft Excel) and accompanied by an original laser-printed printout (approximately 8" x 10" in size). Other digital drawings, including GIS maps, should be forwarded in both digital and hard-copy (high-quality laser-printed original) formats. GIS maps should be ex-

ported in color at 600 pixels per inch resolution at a size of approximately 8" x 10". All digital illustrations must be in TIFF or EPS file formats (not JPG or GIF). Color information should be saved with the file (i.e., not converted to grayscale); LZW compression may be applied.

Delivery of Illustrations

Digital files can be forwarded on 3½" floppy disk, Zip disk, CD-ROM, or by FTP (file transfer protocol). Overnight or second-day delivery is the preferred method of shipping since it allows tracking of materials. Label the electronic transfer medium with the article title and park name; label illustrations (sticky notes work well) with article title, park name, and placement information (e.g., figure 1). Indicate whether materials should be returned.

Table 1. Guidelines for contributors to *Park Science*

Article Type	Description	Length (words)	Illustrations
<i>General</i>	Report of recent or ongoing research or resource management project. Addresses a park or general resource management issue, objectives, methods, results, and management implications, as applicable. Written in lay language with managerial application in mind. Attributed to author.	Up to 2,500 (target=1,500)	3-5, showing staff at work in field, equipment, & focal subject matter
<i>Feature</i>	Science-based articles of broad interest featuring some human-interest twist. Attributed to author.	750-1,500	2-3
<i>Short article</i>	Subjects of interest to researchers, resource managers, and other park staff on science-based park management. Attributed to author.	750	1-2
<i>Book Review</i>	Commentary by subject area expert on the relevance and applicability of a book to the work of park resource managers and park research partners. Includes synopsis of book, author's credentials, and publication information. Attributed to reviewer.	750-1,500	Send dust jacket for publication with the review
<i>Conference Corner</i>	Reviews and news of recent conferences, symposia, and meetings. Commentary acceptable as it pertains to applicability of sessions to park management problems. Attributed to author.	750-1,500	1-2, illustrating park project or prominent issue discussed at conference
<i>Highlights</i>	Brief reports on contributions of all park operational functions (i.e., resource management, interpretation, law enforcement, facility management, administration) and research to resource preservation goals. Submitted to editor or through designated representative. Not attributed to author.	1-5 paragraphs (up to 350 words)	Desirable; photographs preferred

Article Type	Description	Length (words)	Illustrations
<i>Information Crossfile</i>	Synopses of longer, often scholarly works describing interesting scientific or management-type articles in recent publications and describing location of source material. Editorial comment is acceptable here, where appropriate, pointing out the usefulness of such information in view of certain park problems, for instance. Unattributed.	1-3 paragraphs (target = 200 words)	Optional
<i>Letters to the Editor</i>	Reader's views and criticisms about ideas or scientific information published in <i>Park Science</i> . Edited for brevity, clarity, and tone. Attributed to author of letter. (Article author whose ideas are criticized is invited to respond.)	35-150	Not applicable
<i>MAB Notes</i>	General update on the MAB program of UNESCO or a report on specific MAB program developments in a park. Attributed to author.	750-1,500 words per item	1-2, showing aspects of program discussed
<i>Meetings of Interest</i>	Calendar detailing dates, locations, and brief synopses of upcoming conferences, symposia, and meetings, including who should attend and how to register. Unattributed.	75-150 words per item	Not applicable
<i>News and Views</i>	Resource management and research news items of national interest and importance. Not attributed.	150-350 words per item	Desirable; photos preferred
<i>Notes from Abroad</i>	Personal accounts of international resource management and research work assignments, assessing the value of the experience to the locales visited and to resource stewardship in the national park system. Attributed to author.	750-1,500	2-4, showing location and focal subject matter
<i>Publications Roundup</i>	Listing of technical or natural resource reports, scientific monographs, and other publications in the previous six months, either by park, region, program office, or by some general environmental category, e.g., riparian, forest, wetlands, etc. Includes author(s), title, date, place of publication, report number, cost of method described, and information for obtaining copies. One sentence explaining the material may also be appropriate. Unattributed.	35-100 words per item	Not applicable

Contacting the Editor

Cut out and place in your Rolodex

PARK SCIENCE

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